

An Innovative Partnership For Regulatory Permitting

City of Seattle and US Army Corps of Engineers

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Seattle District

Outline

- Tool - Water Resource Development Act of 2000 (WRDA)
- Seattle, the first city to implement nationwide
- Workload & the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Benefits/Costs
- How to Implement
- Where Do We Go From Here?



How WRDA Works

- Corps and non-Federal public entity enter into an agreement
- Local agency deposits money in an account with the Corps
- Corps uses money to charge their staff time



Seattle, Washington



City Services



Seattle's Environmental Commitment

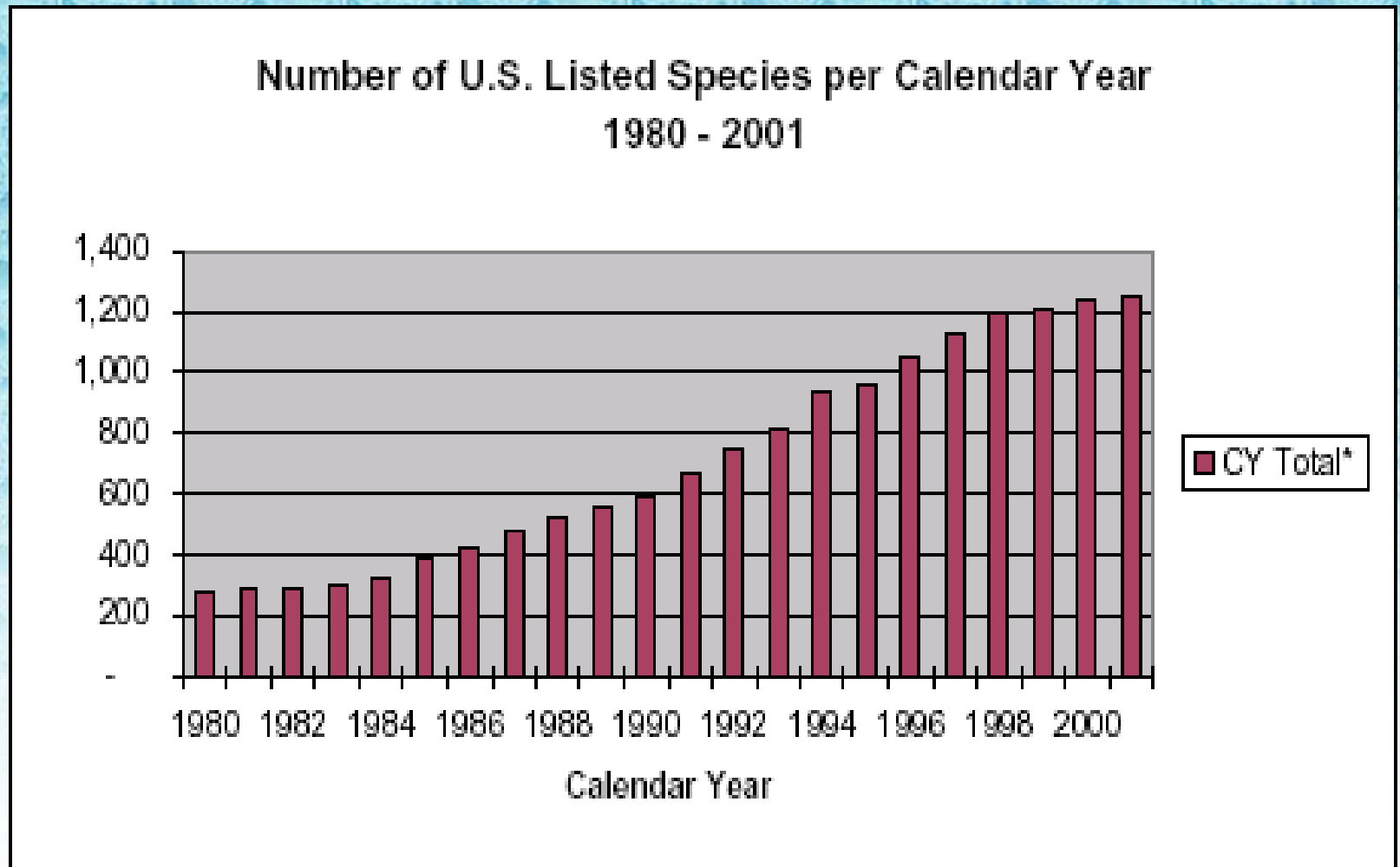


Map of State with Seattle's Project Areas/Property

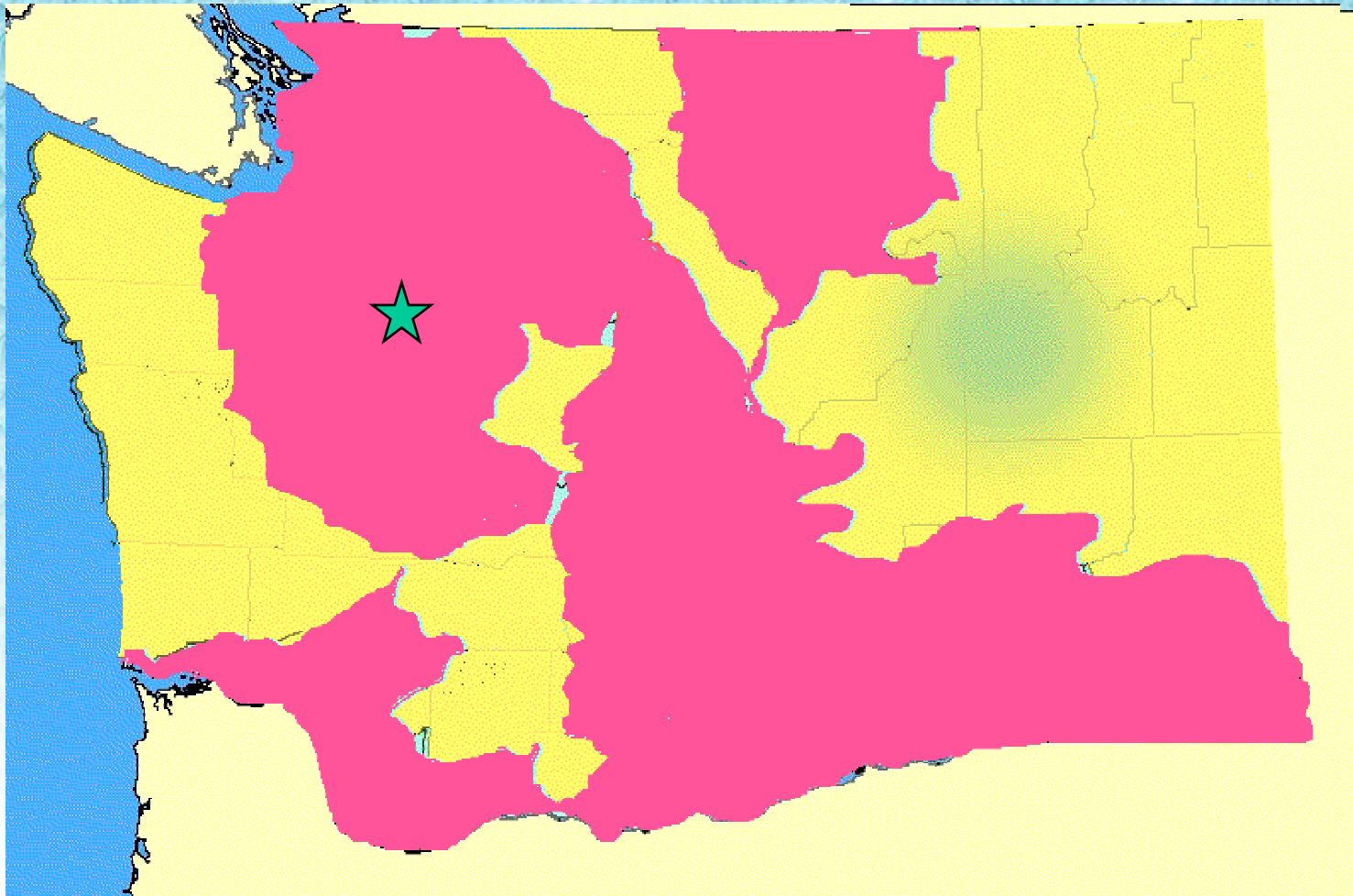


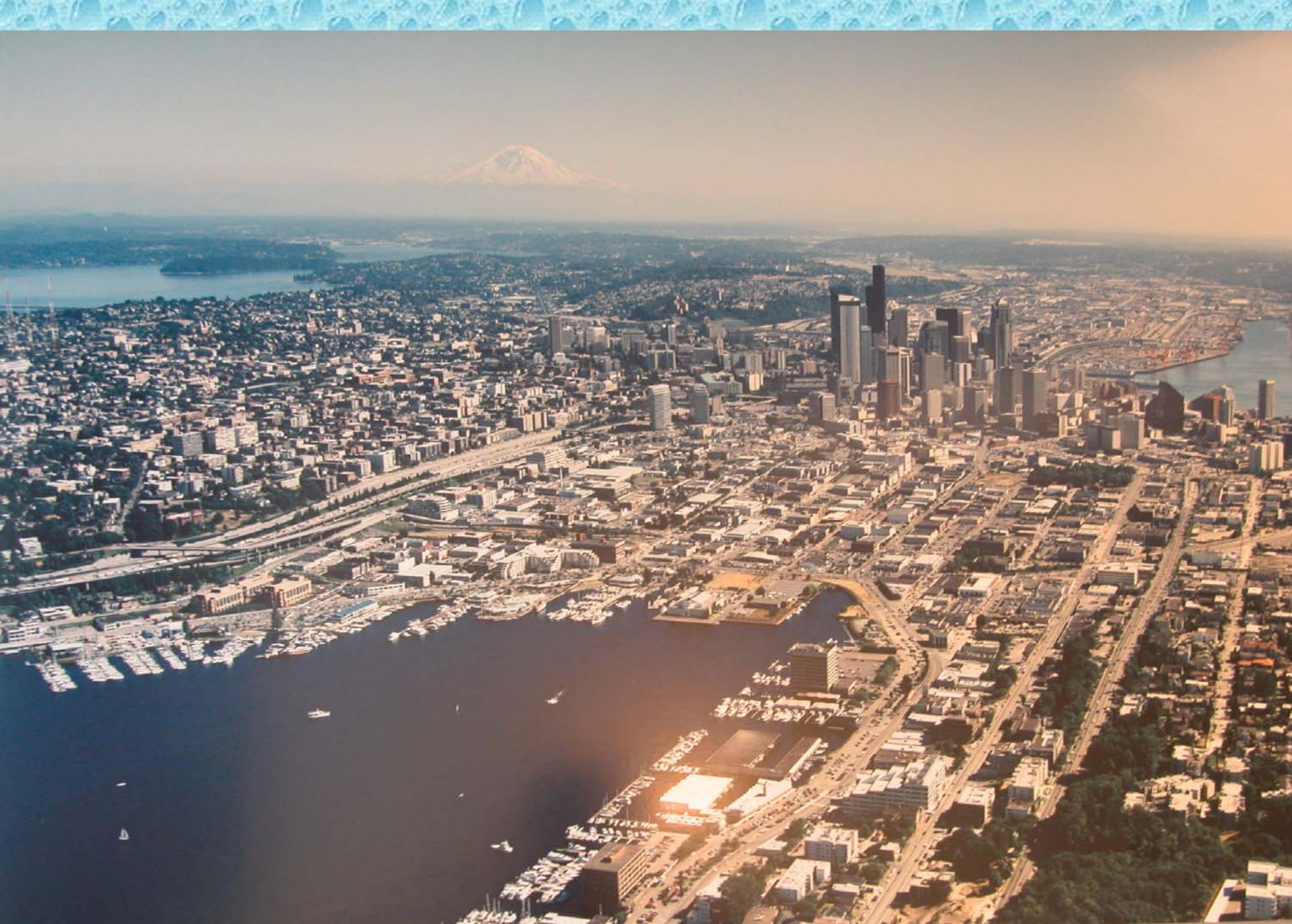


Number of U.S. Listed Species per Calendar Year 1980-2001



1999 ESA Listings and Area Affected

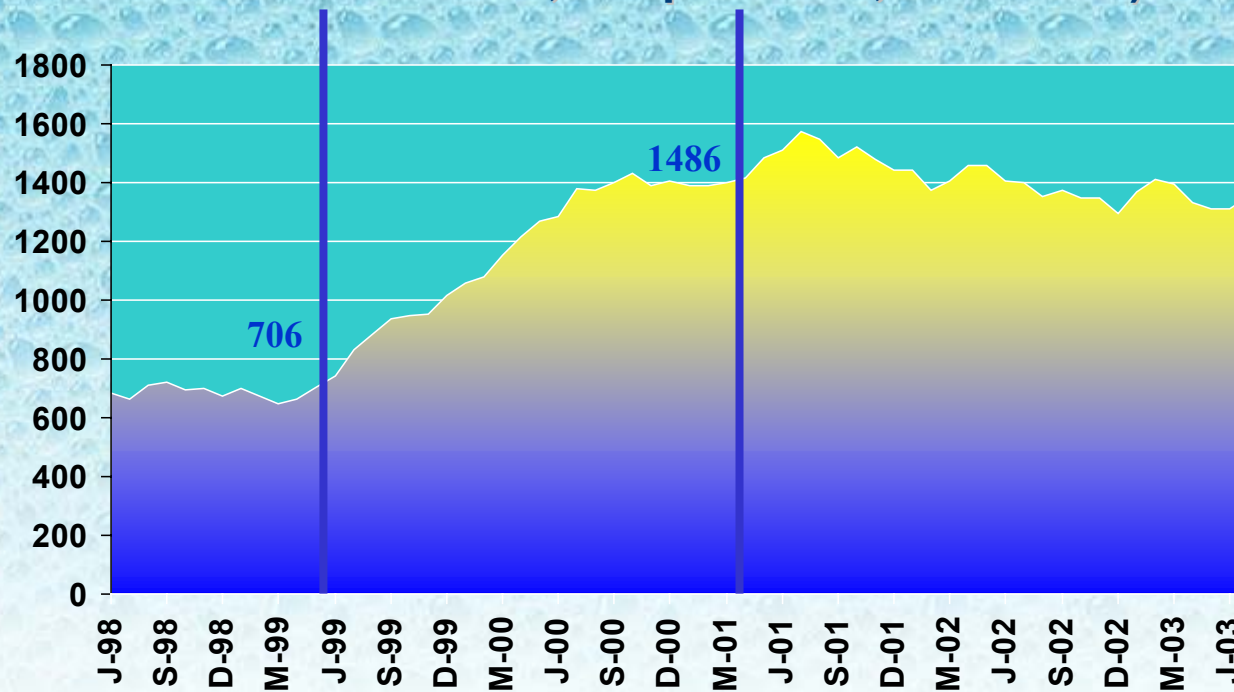




Seattle District Workload Figures

Cumulative Total of all Project Managers' Pending Actions

(IPs, LOPs, NWP, JDs, Regionals, Mods, Exemptions, No Permit Requireds, After-the-Facts, Suspensions, Violations)



(figures as of the first of each month)

WRDA 2000

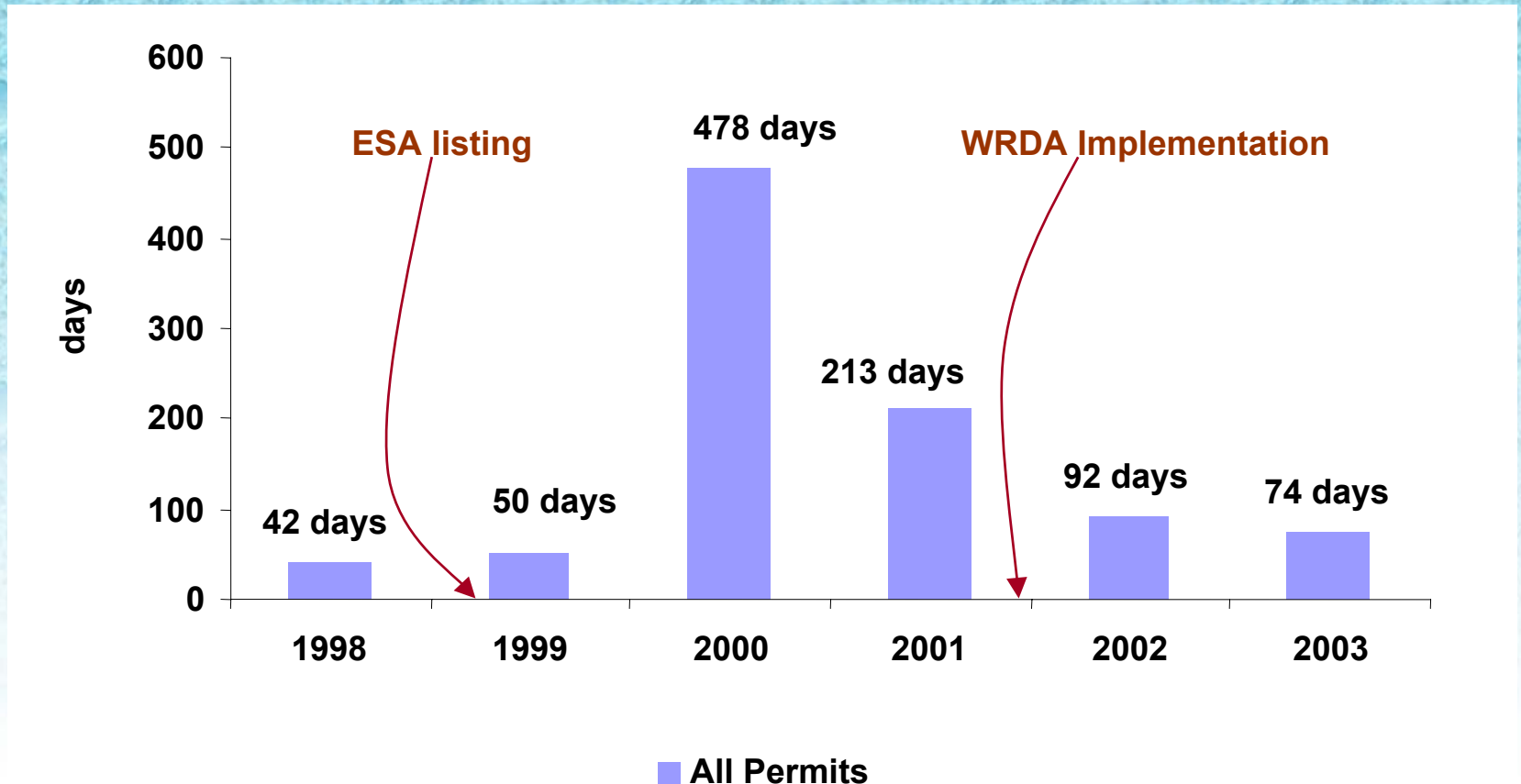
A New Tool to Accelerate USACE Permit Review

**WRDA 2000 Allowed
Corps to Accept Funds
to Expedite Prioritize
Projects**

**Prioritization Identified
by Public Agency
Funding
WRDA Agreement**



City of Seattle/US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Permit Process Time Before and After ESA and WRDA



Benefits/Considerations in Implementing WRDA

- **Savings on project design/implementation**
Hourly review fee by Corps employee (Approximately \$60-\$100 per hour)
- **Reduced permitting time/queue time**
Extra time set up for meetings to establish team dynamics and understanding
- **Queue time for all applicants reduced**
Dealing with public perception
- **Priority projects reviewed first**
Non-prioritized projects have been put on wayside

Benefits/Considerations in Implementing WRDA (cont'd)

- **City Staff are better educated on Federal Process and Requirements**

Initial perceptions needed to be corrected (Just because an entity is paying Corps salary does not mean the answer is yes)

- **Improved communications/understanding**

Investment in training City and Corps Staff and cost of developing the web page and feedback tools

- **Improved business processes**

Costs of culture shifts and redesigning business processes

Keys to Smooth Implementation

- Designated Lead City Agency
- Establish “Single Point of Contact” for each agency
- Develop written expectations during the initial set-up phase
- Meet on a Regular Basis (1/month)
- Bi-Monthly Informal Pre-Application Meetings
- Periodic Site Visits

How to Implement More Smoothly

- **Work through conflict in a positive, respectful manner**
- **Business practices/culture will need to change**
- **Quarterly Billing Reports**
- **WRDA + USFWS + NMFS**
- **Educate yourselves and key staff**
- **Reinforce positive results and expectations**

Our Experience with WRDA

Savings on projects (over 18 months):

- More than 59 CIP projects have been presented at Informal Pre-Application meetings
- Total cost to the City = \$51,000
- Estimated cost savings = \$3.3 million



Reduced project delays:

Project review went from an average high of 478 days to 74 days per project.

Our Experience with WRDA (cont'd)

Improved predictability:

Reduced redesign, better able to maintain scope/schedule/budget.

Improved communications:

One point of contact, quicker response times, understanding of processes, needs and each others terminology.

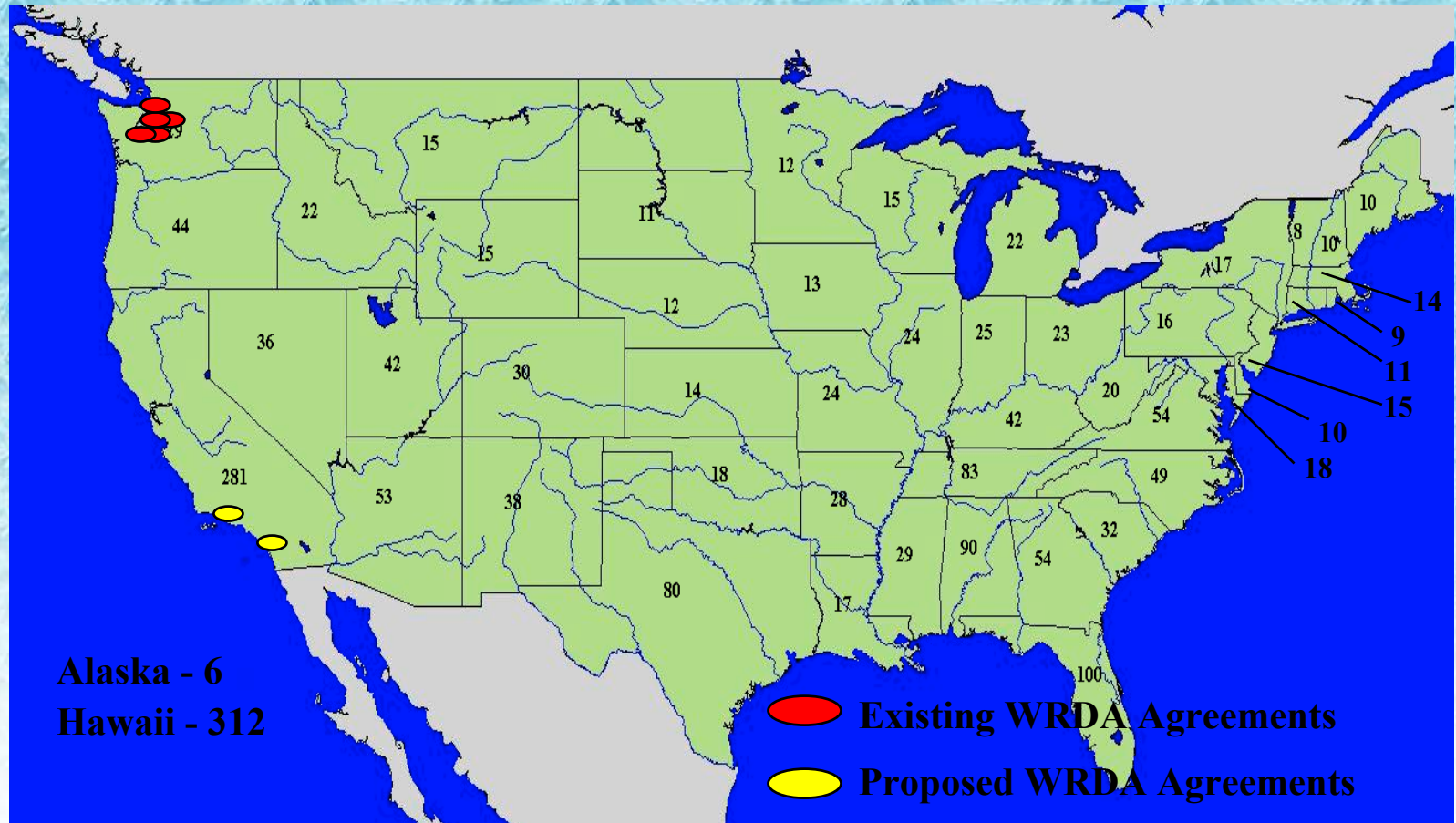
Improved environmental outcomes:

Avoidance and minimization of environmental impacts is identified in the beginning of the process.

WRDA Agreement Locations - 2003

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Listed Species Range by State/Territory



Where Does the City of Seattle Go From Here?




Similar MOA with USFWS & NMFS 



**Reference Biological Assessment-
Geographic Based**



**Continue to Improve Business Processes
and Practices**

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Permit Tracking System
- Facilitated Federal Permit Web-Page 
- Education

Where Does the Corps Go From Here?

Status of WRDA Section 214 & Sunset Clause

- (a) In Fiscal Years 2001 through 2003, the Secretary, after public notice, may accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the evaluation of permits under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army.
- Congress - Conference Committee
 - HR 2557 WRDA Bill
 - S 1424 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

Both bills amend WRDA Section 214 subsection (a) by striking '2003' and inserting '2005'.

Where Does the Corps Go From Here? (cont'd)

Enter into Additional WRDA Agreements

- City of San Diego
- Port of Los Angeles
- Other parts of the country

Enter into new Agreements....



Summary



- **WRDA as a tool**
- **Discussed the Corps workload and ESA**
- **Benefits/Costs of WRDA**
- **How you can benefit and Implement**
- **Future steps**

Questions???

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Business Process Improvement Forms

CITY OF SEATTLE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW & PERMIT COORDINATION		City of Seattle – US Army Corps of Engineers 2003 Informal Pre-Application Meeting Feedback Form																			
<p>What Does Each Project Require?</p> <p>• MAPS (Prefer 8 1/2 x 11)</p> <p>icity Map</p> <p>IS Map – Showing bodie site, or within 3 mile rad for surface water flow.</p> <p>ite Map</p> <p>lan View</p> <p>ross Section</p> <p>etail</p> <p>omplete the “General Pro</p> <p>oint Aquatic’s Review P</p> <p>omplete a <i>draft</i> JARPA (Masako Lo has good ex information)</p>	<p>What Does Each Project Require?</p> <p>• MAPS (Prefer 8 1/2 x 11)</p> <p>icity Map</p> <p>IS Map – Showi site, or within 3 for surface wate</p> <p>ite Map</p> <p>lan View</p> <p>ross Section</p> <p>etail</p> <p>omplete the “Ge</p> <p>oint Aquatic’s F</p> <p>omplete a <i>draft</i> (Masako Lo has information)</p>	<p>Department/Division:</p> <p>Name (Optional):</p> <p>Meeting Date:</p> <p>1=strongly agree 2=disagree 3=neutral 4=agree 5=strongly agree</p> <p>1=relatively important 2=somewhat important 3=important 4=very important 5=extremely important</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Performance</th> <th>Importance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Did you feel you had sufficient time to explain your project?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Was there sufficient time for good discussion of your project?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Was the feedback from the Corps helpful to you?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do you have a better understanding of what you need to do regarding Corps, NMFS, & USFWS requirements?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do you have a better understanding of the timeline needed for Federal permits and application elements to include in your application package?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Will you be making change to your project design based on feedback you received from the Corps at the meeting?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Did the informal Pre-App meeting influence your proposed construction schedule?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Was the Informal Pre-App meeting beneficial?</td> <td>1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comments:</p>	Performance	Importance	Did you feel you had sufficient time to explain your project?	1 2 3 4 5	Was there sufficient time for good discussion of your project?	1 2 3 4 5	Was the feedback from the Corps helpful to you?	1 2 3 4 5	Do you have a better understanding of what you need to do regarding Corps, NMFS, & USFWS requirements?	1 2 3 4 5	Do you have a better understanding of the timeline needed for Federal permits and application elements to include in your application package?	1 2 3 4 5	Will you be making change to your project design based on feedback you received from the Corps at the meeting?	1 2 3 4 5	Did the informal Pre-App meeting influence your proposed construction schedule?	1 2 3 4 5	Was the Informal Pre-App meeting beneficial?	1 2 3 4 5
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Web-Page Application to Improve Internal Communications



Facilitated Permit Coordination - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Mail Print

Address <http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/corpspermit/default.htm>

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Engineering Support

Facilitated Permit Coordination

City of Seattle & US Army of Corps Engineers

Overview

The City of Seattle and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have developed a process to streamline permitting for City of Seattle Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. The Mayor's Office has designated Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to coordinate permits with the Corps.

How it works?

View 7 easy steps to streamline permitting for City of Seattle CIP projects. [More](#)

Facilitated permit coordination was granted under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in December 2000. The City is the first public agency in the country to develop and use facilitated permitting. Projects that go through facilitated permitting can move up the City's list of prioritized projects.

Who should use it?

Facilitated permit coordination helps City project managers whose CIP projects will need Corps permits. Facilitated permit coordination can substantially reduce permit processing time, which can take up to a year.

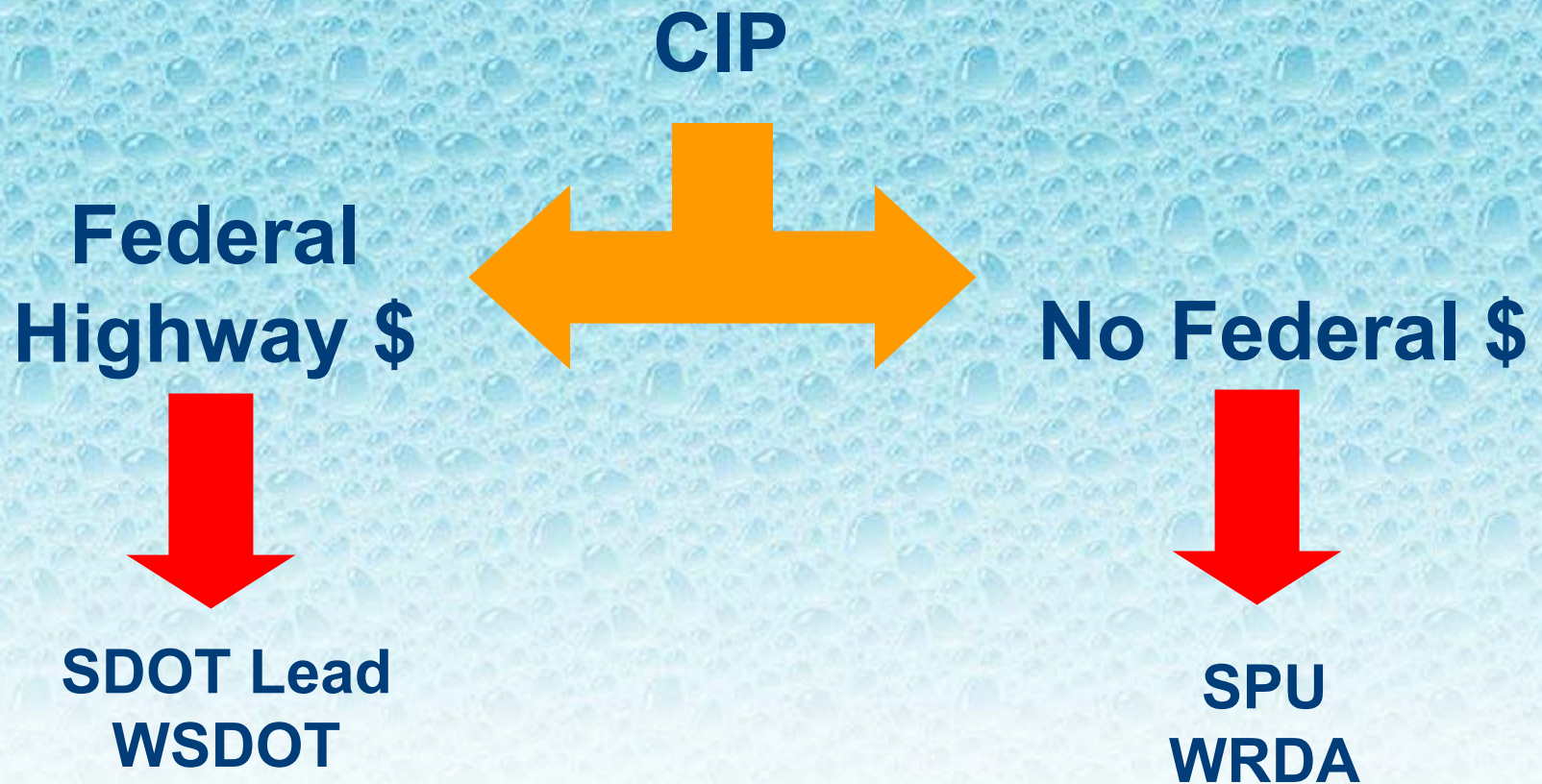
Why do we need facilitated permitting?

Pre-application conferences are a means of obtaining critical information from a regulatory agency. Agencies like them because they avoid receiving a premature or incomplete set of plans for permit review.

[SPU Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Site Index](#)

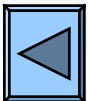
Last Updated: 10/25/02

City of Seattle Facilitated Federal Permitting Process









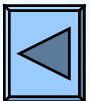
How to Create a Positive Working Relationship

- 1. Treat each other with respect**
- 2. Learn as much as you can about the process and business/regulatory requirements**
- 3. Be an active listener and open communicator**
- 4. Be responsive to Corps' requests for information**
- 5. Clearly articulate a project's needs and objectives in the context of the Corps regulatory requirements**
- 6. Politely and professionally ask questions**
- 7. Be receptive to constructive feedback and act on it!**
- 8. Don't shoot the messenger**



Cost Options with USFWS and NMFS

	<u>NOAA Fisheries</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Do Nothing	0	0	\$0 Services \$\$ Delays
Port of Seattle	1/2 	\$60,000	\$120,000
Port of Tacoma	1/2 	\$60,000	\$120,000
City of Seattle	1/2 	1/2 	\$120,000
Other Option			\$240,000



How WRDA Works

- Corps and local agency enter into an agreement
- Local agency enters into an agreement with a local entity
- Corps provides staff time

Where Does the City of Seattle Go From Here? (cont'd)



WRDA Section 214: work to eliminate the Sunset Clause - perpetuity



Continue to network with other WRDA agencies